



Bladder augmentation

Bladder augmentation, also called augmentation cystoplasty, is a complex reconstructive surgical procedure where a portion of intestine or the stomach is attached to the bladder to increase the size of the organ and to improve its ability to stretch.

Reasons for bladder augmentation

Bladder augmentation is performed in cases where chronic obstructive bladder damage, birth defects, or other medical problems have made the bladder too small to hold the normal amount of urine produced by the kidneys. Bladder augmentation can relieve urinary incontinence and prevent damage to the kidneys from urine backing up (reflux).

Complications of bladder augmentation

Many candidates for bladder augmentation have other serious medical problems including spinal cord injuries, spina bifida, bladder exstrophy or obstruction, or multiple sclerosis. Complications of the procedure are similar to other surgeries; it requires general anesthesia, and some patients can suffer headaches, nausea or dizziness, bleeding, infection, or rupture of the bladder. In some cases the bladder may continue to leak following surgery, which may require an additional operation to remedy.

Bladder augmentation surgery

Children's surgeons recently completed a study to perfect a method for performing bladder augmentation using robotic surgery, significantly reducing pain, scarring, and recovery time.

Long-term outlook for bladder augmentation

Bladder augmentation can significantly improve the quality of life of most patients. A few patients recover spontaneous voiding function after bladder augmentation, but many others must learn to pass a catheter backward through the urethra to the bladder to drain urine from the body.

